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10/596,584	06/16/2006	Tatsuaki Mitsumata	P30080	8064
52123 7590 04/14/2010 GREENBLUM & BERNSTEIN, P.L.C. 1950 ROLAND CLARKE PLACE RESTON, VA 20191			EXAMINER DANG, HUNG Q	
			ART UNIT 2621	PAPER NUMBER
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Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

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Office Action Summary	Application No. 10/596,584	Applicant(s) MITSUMATA, TATSUAKI	
	Examiner Hung Q. Dang	Art Unit 2621	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 16 June 2006.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-25 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-25 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 16 June 2006 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 3) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application |
| Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

The following is a quotation of the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall conclude with one or more claims particularly pointing out and distinctly claiming the subject matter which the applicant regards as his invention.

Claims 10-12 and 17-20 rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

Claim 10 recites the limitations "said other appliance", "said data", and "received data". There is insufficient antecedent basis for the limitation "said other appliance" in the claim. Also, it is not clear which "said data" and "the received data" the claim is referring to since "said data" can be either "data broadcasting", "data generated and updated", or "data related to the data broadcasting" and "the received data" can be either the received "data related to the data broadcasting" recited in this claim or the received "data broadcasting" recited in claim 9.

Claim 11 is rejected for the same reason as discussed in claim 10 above.

Claims 12-13 are rejected for the same reason as discussed in claim 10 above and also because they depend on claim 11 above.

Claim 17 recites the limitations "said data" and "received data". It is not clear which "said data" and "the received data" the claim is referring to since "said data" can be either "data broadcasting", "data generated and updated", or "data related to the data broadcasting" and "the received data" can be either the received "data related to

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the data broadcasting" recited in this claim or the received "data broadcasting" recited in claims it depends on.

Claim 18 recites the limitations "the data in said selected storage area". There is insufficient antecedent basis for this limitation in the claim.

Claim 19 is rejected for the same reason as discussed in claim 18 above. Further, claim 19 recites "... the request to transmit the data from said other appliance...". It is not clear which "the data" as recited refers to.

Claim 20 is rejected because at least it depends on claim 19 above. Further, claim 20 recites the limitations "... after transmitting the data to said other appliance ..." and "received data". It is not clear which "the data" and "the received data" the claim is referring to since "the data" can be either "data broadcasting", "data generated and updated", or "data related to the data broadcasting" and "the received data" can be either the received "data related to the data broadcasting" recited in this claim or the received "data broadcasting" recited in claims it depends on.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

(e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

Claims 1 and 21 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Epstein et al. (US Patent 6,530,021 – hereinafter Epstein).

Regarding claim 1, Epstein discloses a television broadcasting receiving device comprising: a receiver that receives television broadcasting and data broadcasting (*Fig. 2; column 3, lines 9-11; column 5, lines 15-22 – wherein television broadcasting and data broadcasting are received via an antenna or other devices such as a satellite dish*); a reproducer that reproduces the television broadcasting or the data broadcasting received by said receiver (*column 4, lines 15-18; column 6, lines 10-12 – wherein the contents, which are television broadcasting or the data broadcasting are reproduced and displayed when permitted*); a storage that stores data generated and updated when said data broadcasting is reproduced (*column 3, lines 10-13; column 5, line 59 – column 6, line 12 – wherein the received ticket and/or watermark together with other data that are generated and processed is/are saved and used as up-to-date playback control*); a setter for setting the reproduction of said data broadcasting to permission and inhibition (*column 4, lines 16-22; column 5, lines 1-8; column 6, lines 10-17 – wherein the permission or inhibition of playback is set according to a result of comparing the ticket and the watermark*); and a controller that disables, when the reproduction of said data broadcasting is set to inhibition using said setter, the reproduction of the data broadcasting by said reproducer (*column 4, lines 19-21; column 5, lines 1-13; column 6, lines 12-17 – wherein if the ticket and the watermark do not correspond to one another, the reproduction is inhibited, the content is controlled to be not displayable or playback of the contents is prevented or disabled*).

Claim 21 is rejected for the same reason as discussed in claim 1 above.

Claims 7-13 and 23-24 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Browne et al. (WO 92/22983 – hereinafter Browne).

Regarding claim 7, Browne discloses a television broadcasting receiving device that can be connected to another one or a plurality of appliances, comprising: a receiver that receives television broadcasting and data broadcasting (*Fig. 1; p. 6, lines 1-12; p. 9, lines 4-32 – via multiple input connections, each of which receives an input signal*); a reproducer that reproduces the television broadcasting or the data broadcasting received by said receiver (*p. 14, lines 9-25 – wherein the reproduction is performed by decoding and presenting programs for viewing*); a storage that stores data generated and updated when said data broadcasting is reproduced (*p. 11, line 28 – p. 12, line 32; p. 20, lines 17-27 – wherein the data generated and updated are viewing patterns that are collected from user's input when said data broadcasting is reproduced or p. 25, lines 12-23 – wherein titles and/or other information for programs broadcast with the program are retrieved, updated and stored*); a setter for setting an appliance for reproducing the data broadcasting (*p. 7, lines 1-4; p. 14, lines 19-25; p. 16, lines 4-33; p.20, lines 1-16; Fig. 3; p. 26, line 30 – p. 27, line 16; p. 33, lines 1-18 – wherein at least an appliance is set via routing to a selected output*); an instruction device that gives an instruction to reproduce the data broadcasting by said reproducer (*p. 14, lines 3-23; p. 24, lines 18-24 – wherein the data broadcasting is instructed to be reproduced upon user's selection and the controller further instructs the reproduction so that data broadcasting is read, decompressed, and outputted to selected destinations*); and a controller that transmits a

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request to reproduce the data broadcasting to the appliance set using said setter in response to the instruction to reproduce the data broadcasting by said instruction device (*p. 8, line 24 – p.9, line 3; p. 14, lines 3-23; p.20, lines 6-16; p. 24, lines 18-24 – wherein the data broadcasting is instructed to be reproduced upon user's selection and the controller further transmits a request to perform the reproduction so that data broadcasting is read, decompressed, and outputted to selected destinations*).

Regarding claim 8, Browne also discloses said controller instructs, when it receives the request to reproduce the data broadcasting from another appliance, said reproducer to reproduce the data broadcasting (*p. 14, lines 3-23; p. 24, lines 18-24 – wherein the data broadcasting is instructed to be reproduced upon user's selection via an input device and the controller further transmits a request to perform the reproduction so that data broadcasting is read, decompressed, and outputted to selected destinations*).

Regarding claim 9, Browne discloses a television broadcasting receiving device that can be connected to another one or a plurality of appliances, comprising: a receiver that receives television broadcasting and data broadcasting (*Fig. 1; p. 6, lines 1-12; p. 9, lines 4-32 – via multiple input connections, each of which receives an input signal*); a reproducer that reproduces the television broadcasting or the data broadcasting received by said receiver (*p. 14, lines 9-25 – wherein the reproduction is performed by decoding and presenting programs for viewing*); a storage that stores data generated and updated when said data broadcasting is reproduced (*p. 11, line 28 – p. 12, line 32; p. 20, lines 17-27 – wherein the data generated and updated are viewing patterns that*

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are collected from user's input when said data broadcasting is reproduced or p. 25, lines 12-23 – wherein titles and/or other information for programs broadcast with the program are retrieved, updated and stored); a setter for setting an appliance for acquiring data related to the data broadcasting (p. 7, lines 1-4; p. 14, lines 19-25; p. 16, lines 4-33; p. 26, line 30 – p. 27, line 16 – wherein at least an appliance is set via routing to a selected output – wherein the data broadcasting is at least the video data and the data related to data broadcasting is interpreted at least as audio data that come with the video data as described on page 5, lines 29-33 or p. 25, lines 12-23 – wherein titles and/or other information for programs broadcast with the program are interpreted as data related to data broadcasting, the recited appliance corresponds to the monitor that displays the stored program list shown in Fig. 6 and described on page 24, lines 18-29); an instruction device that gives an instruction to reproduce the data broadcasting by said reproducer (p. 14, lines 3-23; p.15, lines 28-29; p. 24, lines 18-24 – wherein the data broadcasting is instructed to be reproduced upon user's selection and the controller further instructs the reproduction so that data broadcasting is read, decompressed, and outputted to selected destinations); and a controller that transmits a request to reproduce the data related to the data broadcasting to the appliance set using said setter in response to the instruction to reproduce the data broadcasting by said instruction device (p. 8, line 24 – p.9, line 3; p. 14, lines 3-23; p.15, lines 28-29; p.17, lines 16-23; p.20, lines 6-16; p. 24, lines 18-24 – wherein the data broadcasting is instructed to be reproduced upon user's selection and the controller further transmits a request to perform the reproduction so that the video data and associated audio data is

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read or taken from inputs, decompressed, and outputted to selected destinations or p. 25, lines 12-23 – wherein titles and/or other information for programs broadcast with the program are interpreted as data related to data broadcasting, the recited appliance corresponds to the monitor that displays the stored program list shown in Fig. 6 and described on page 24, lines 18-29).

Regarding claim 10, Browne also discloses said controller writes, when it receives the data related to the data broadcasting from said other appliance in response to the request to transmit said data, the received data into said storage (*p. 8, line 24 – p.9, line 3; p. 25, lines 13-23*).

Regarding claim 11, Browne also discloses said controller transmits, when it receives the request to transmit the data related to the data broadcasting from the other appliance, the data stored in said storage to said other appliance (*p. 8, line 24 – p.9, line 3; p. 24, lines 18-29; p. 25, lines 13-23*).

Regarding claim 12, Browne also discloses said controller sets, when it receives the data stored in said storage to said other appliance in response to the request to transmit the data from said other appliance, said storage to unusability (*p. 20, lines 6-16; p. 25, line 24 – p. 26, line 4 – wherein setting to unusability is via locking*).

Regarding claim 13, Browne also discloses said controller writes, when it receives the data from said other appliance after transmitting the data to said other appliance, the received data into said storage, and sets said storage to usability (*p.8, line 24 – p. 9, line 3; p. 25, line 24 – p. 26, line 4 - wherein setting to usability is via unlocking*).

Claim 23 is rejected for the same reason as discussed in claim 7 above.

Claim 24 is rejected for the same reason as discussed in claim 9 above.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claims 2-3 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Epstein as applied to claims 1 and 21 above, and further in view of Hirai et al. (WO 02/073959 - hereinafter Hirai, references are made to US Patent 7,062,068).

Regarding claim 2, see the teachings of Epstein as discussed in claim 1 above. Further, Epstein also discloses an instruction device that gives an instruction to reproduce the data broadcasting by said reproducer (*column 4, lines 15-18; column 6, lines 10-12 – wherein the reproduction of the data is instructed to be performed when the ticket matches the extracted watermark*).

However, Epstein does not disclose a notification unit that notifies, when the reproduction of said data broadcasting is set to inhibition using said setter, a user that the reproduction of the data broadcasting is set to inhibition in response to the instruction to reproduce the data broadcasting by said instruction device.

Hirai discloses a notification unit that notifies, when the reproduction of data is set to inhibition using a setter, a user that the reproduction of the data is set to inhibition

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in response to the instruction to reproduce the data by an instruction device (*column 38, lines 23-27*).

One of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made would have been motivated to incorporate the teachings of Hirai into the television broadcasting receiving device disclosed by Epstein in order to provide a user-friendly interface so that users can get informed of playback status or conditions.

Regarding claim 3, Hirai also discloses said notification unit includes a display that indicates that the reproduction of the data broadcasting is set to inhibition (*column 38, lines 23-27*).

Claims 4-6 and 22 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Epstein and Sin (US Patent 7,227,583 – hereinafter Sin).

Regarding claim 4, Epstein discloses a television broadcasting receiving device comprising: a receiver that receives television broadcasting and data broadcasting (*Fig. 2; column 3, lines 9-11; column 5, lines 15-22 – wherein television broadcasting and data broadcasting are received via an antenna or other devices such as a satellite dish*); a reproducer that reproduces the television broadcasting or the data broadcasting received by said receiver (*column 4, lines 15-18; column 6, lines 10-12 – wherein the contents, which are television broadcasting or the data broadcasting are reproduced and displayed when permitted*); a storage that stores data generated and updated when said data broadcasting is reproduced (*column 3, lines 10-13; column 5, line 59 – column 6, line 12 – wherein the received ticket and/or watermark together with other data that are generated and processed is/are saved and used as up-to-date playback control*).

However, Epstein does not disclose an instruction device that gives an instruction to reproduce the data broadcasting by said reproducer and a confirmation unit that makes a user confirm whether or not the data broadcasting is to be reproduced in response to the instruction to reproduce the data broadcasting by said instruction device.

Sin discloses an instruction to reproduce the data broadcasting by said reproducer (*column 7, lines 40-61— wherein the data broadcasting is to be reproduced if instructed when a condition is met*) and a confirmation unit that makes a user confirm whether or not the data broadcasting is to be reproduced in response to the instruction to reproduce the data broadcasting by said instruction device (*column 7, line 62 – column 8, line 11 – wherein a confirmation message is displayed so that a user can confirm if he or she wants to data broadcasting to be reproduced*).

One of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made would have been motivated to incorporate the teachings of Sin into the television broadcasting receiving device disclosed by Epstein because as such would enhance the interface of the device (*Sin, column 2, lines 1-7 – the interface of the device would be enhanced by preventing user from being confused*).

Regarding claim 5, Sin also discloses a controller that controls said reproducer such that the data broadcasting is not reproduced when the user gives the instruction not to reproduce the data broadcasting in response to the confirmation by said confirmation unit, while being reproduced when the user gives the instruction to reproduce the data broadcasting in response to the confirmation by said confirmation

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unit (*column 8, lines 2-11; column 9, lines 31-64; Figs. 5-6 – wherein the instruction of whether to reproduce the data broadcasting is given following step S61 by either 'Yes' or 'No' branches*).

Regarding claim 6, Sin also discloses said confirmation unit includes a display that displays an inquiry as to whether or not the data broadcasting is to be reproduced in response to the instruction to reproduce the data broadcasting by said instruction device (*column 8, lines 2-11; column 9, lines 31-64; Figs. 5-6 – wherein the confirmation is displayed as an inquiry of 'Do you want to see HD program?'*).

Claim 22 is rejected for the same reason as discussed in claim 4 above.

Claims 14 and 25 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Browne and Nitta et al. (EP 0584991 - hereinafter Nitta).

Regarding claim 14, Browne discloses a television broadcasting receiving device that can be connected to another one or a plurality of appliances, comprising: a receiver that receives television broadcasting and data broadcasting (*Fig. 1; p. 6, lines 1-12; p. 9, lines 4-32 – via multiple input connections, each of which receives an input signal*); a reproducer that reproduces the television broadcasting or the data broadcasting received by said receiver (*p. 14, lines 9-25 – wherein the reproduction is performed by decoding and presenting programs for viewing*); a storage that stores data generated and updated when said data broadcasting is reproduced (*p. 11, line 28 – p. 12, line 32; p. 20, lines 17-27 – wherein the data generated and updated are viewing patterns that are collected from user's input when said data broadcasting is reproduced or p. 25, lines 12-23 – wherein titles and/or other information for programs broadcast with the program*

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are retrieved, updated and stored); an instruction device that gives an instruction to reproduce the data broadcasting by said reproducer (*p. 14, lines 3-23; p.15, lines 28-29; p. 24, lines 18-24 – wherein the data broadcasting is instructed to be reproduced upon user's selection and the controller further instructs the reproduction so that data broadcasting is read, decompressed, and outputted to selected destinations*); and a presentation unit that presents to a user information related to said storage and information related to storages in said other one or plurality of appliances in response to an instruction issued by said instruction device (*Fig. 3; p. 20, lines 2-16*). Browne also discloses recording and reproduction are performed simultaneously (*p. 8, lines 15-23*).

However, Browne does not disclose the presentation unit presents information related to storages in response to the instruction to reproduce the data broadcasting by said instruction device.

Nitta discloses a presentation unit presents information related to storages in response to the instruction to record the data broadcasting by an instruction device (*column 5, lines 14-34*).

One of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made would have been motivated to incorporate the teachings of Nitta into the television broadcasting receiving device disclosed by Browne so that the data can be controlled dynamically in accordance with the recording capacity of the storages (*Nitta, column 2, lines 28-35*) providing flexibility in recording.

Claim 25 is rejected for the same reason as discussed in claim 14 above.

Claims 15-20 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Browne and Nitta as applied to claims 14 and 25 above, and further in view of Johnson et al. (US 2003/0154485 – hereinafter Johnson).

Regarding claim 15, see the teachings of Browne and Nitta as discussed in claim 14 above. Further, Browne also discloses said storage has one or a plurality of storage areas, and said storage in each of said other one or plurality of appliances has one or a plurality of storage areas (*Fig. 3; Fig. 6 – wherein the number of storage areas for each said storage and storage in one or plurality appliances is one*), the television broadcasting receiving device comprising an operation unit that respectively assigns users to the one or plurality of storage areas in said storage and said one or plurality of storage areas in each of said other one or plurality of appliances (*Fig. 3; Fig. 6; p. 26, lines 5-17*).

Browne and Nitta do not explicitly disclose said presentation unit presenting information related to the users respectively assigned to said one or plurality of storage areas in said storage and said one or plurality of storage areas in each of said other one or plurality of appliances.

Johnson discloses a presentation unit presenting information related to the users respectively assigned to said one or plurality of storage areas in a storage and one or plurality of storage areas in each of other one or plurality of appliances (*Fig. 4; Figs. 10-11; [0007]; [0057]*).

One of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made would have been motivated to incorporate the teachings of Johnson into the television broadcasting

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receiving device disclosed by Browne and Nitta in order to ensure a fair use of memories among different users (*Johnson, abstract*).

Regarding claim 16, Browne also discloses a selector that selects any one of said one or plurality of storage areas and said one or plurality of storage areas in each of said other one or plurality of appliances on the basis of the information related to the users presented by said presentation unit (*Fig. 3; Fig. 6; p. 20, lines 6-16; p. 20, line 28 – p. 21, line 3*), and a controller that transmits, when said selector selects the storage area in the other appliance, a request to transmit the data related to the data broadcasting to the selected other appliance (*Fig. 3; Fig. 6; p. 8, line 24 – p.9, line 3; p. 20, lines 6-16; p. 20, line 28 – p. 21, line 3*).

Regarding claim 17, Browne also discloses said controller writes, when it receives the data related to the data broadcasting from said other appliance in response to the request to transmit said data, the received data into said storage (*p. 8, line 24 – p.9, line 3; p. 25, lines 13-23*).

Regarding claim 18, Browne also discloses said controller transmits, when it receives the request to transmit the data related to the data broadcasting from the other appliance, the data stored in said storage to said other appliance (*p. 8, line 24 – p.9, line 3; p. 24, lines 18-29; p. 25, lines 13-23*).

Regarding claim 19, Browne also discloses said controller sets, when it transmits the data in said selected storage in said storage to said other appliance in response to the request to transmit the data from said other appliance, said storage to unusability

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(p.20, lines 6-16; p. 25, line 24 – p. 26, line 4 – wherein setting to unusability is via locking).

Regarding claim 20, Browne also discloses said controller writes, when it receives the data from said other appliance after transmitting the data to said other appliance, the received data into said storage, and sets said storage to usability (p.8, line 24 – p. 9, line 3; p.20, lines 6-16; p. 25, line 24 – p. 26, line 4 - wherein setting to usability is via unlocking).

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Hung Q. Dang whose telephone number is (571)270-1116. The examiner can normally be reached on IFT.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, THAI Q. TRAN can be reached on 571-272-7382. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

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Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/Hung Q Dang/
Examiner, Art Unit 2621

/Thai Tran/
Supervisory Patent Examiner, Art Unit 2621